

Message #8

II Samuel 5:1-25

The story of David is one for the books, or rather one for “the eternal book.” David was informed that he would be the next king of Israel when he was about 17 years old (I Sam. 16:12). But he would not actually become the next King until he was 30 years old (II Sam. 5:4). So there was a gap of at least 13 years between the time David was told by God he would be king and the time God actually made him king.

Those 13 years were years that were anything but boring. They were hard, troublesome years filled with pressures and problems. For about ten of those years, he had been a fugitive fleeing for his life. But all through the process, God was developing him and molding him for **this very moment because this is the moment God completely and literally fulfills His word and David becomes the king.**

There is an important principle to see here:

YEARS AFTER GOD PROMISED THAT DAVID WOULD BE KING AND YEARS AFTER MANY TRIALS AND STRUGGLES IN THE LIFE OF DAVID, GOD SPECIFICALLY LITERALLY FULFILLED HIS WORD AND MAKES DAVID KING OVER ALL ISRAEL.

There is so much to learn from this. What God has planned for our lives does not happen overnight. However, if we purpose to remain faithful to God, what God has planned for our lives will eventually come to fruition.

Now this passage breaks down nicely into two main historical parts:

HISTORICAL PART #1 – All tribes of Israel anoint David as King. **5:1-5**

When Ish-bosheth was assassinated and Abner was dead, Israel was left with no king. So according to **verse 1**, all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron to make him the king.

Now the leaders of Israel listed several reasons for making him king:

1) David was Jewish. **5:1**

They were from the same fleshly lineage. David was not only from the tribe of Judah, but he was an Israelite physically connected to all the Jewish people.

2) David had been a leader when Saul was king. **5:2a**

3) God said that David would be ruler and shepherd over Israel. **5:2b**

Frankly, this is third on the list and should have been first on the list.

According to **verse 3**, all the elders of Israel came to King David and he made a covenant with them and they anointed him king over all Israel.

God’s perfect will for our lives does not happen overnight.

According to **I Chronicles 12:23-40**, the number of officers and men who came to Hebron to officially anoint David king were over 303,822.

From Judah there were 6,800 - **12:24** The men from this tribe were very equipped for war.

From Simeon there were 7,100 - **12:25** These were mighty men and mighty warriors.

From Levi there were 4,600 - **12:26**

From Jehoiada from Aaron's family were 3,700 - **12:27**

From Zadok there were 22 captains - **12:28**

From Benjamin there were 3,000 - **12:29** These were Saul's loyal family until this moment.

From Ephraim there were 20,800 - **12:30** There were mighty men and famous men in this tribe.

From the half tribe of Manasseh there were 18,000 - **12:31** They were actually named.

From Isshacar there were 200 - **12:32** - Very knowledgeable chiefs who understood times.

From Zebulun there were 50,000 - **12:33** - Skilled warrior with multiple weapons.

From Naphtali there were 1,000 captains and 37,000 soldiers - **12:34** They had spears and shields.

From Dan there were 28,600 - **12:35** - very disciplined battle soldiers.

From Asher were 40,000 - **12:36** - very disciplined soldiers.

From Reuben, Manasseh and Gad there were 120,000 - **12:36** - warriors with weapons.

They all came to join David and they were there eating and drinking for three days. There was great joy in Israel. This was an amazing inauguration. God was fulfilling His word in a big time way.

David was 30 years old when he became king and he reigned 40 years until he was 70 (**5:4**).

At Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months and he reigned 33 years over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem (**5:5**).

What a great moment this was in the life of David. The prophetic plan and will of God had come true.

HISTORICAL PART #2 – God immediately blesses David as King. **5:6-25**

When David became king, God immediately started turning things around and blessing David. There are four blessing realities we may observe here:

Blessing Reality #1 - God blessed David with a new capital city Jerusalem. **5:6-10**

To this point David, who was king over Judah, had made Hebron his capital and Ish-bosheth had made Mahanaim Israel's capital (II Sam. 2:8). Now that they were all united and had joined forces, having a new capital city would be in order.

God apparently revealed to David that Jerusalem was to become Israel's capital city. It is clear from many prophetic passages of Scripture that Jerusalem would be the great city of God. So this was the point in time when God decided to make it the capital city of Israel.

According to **verse 6**, David and his men went to Jerusalem and the Jebusites, a Canaanite group who had not been eradicated, who were living there, told David and his men they were not welcome. They could not have this city and they did not want David even entering it.

According to **verse 7**, David captured Jerusalem, called Zion and the city of David. Now the way David captured this city is one of the most remarkable “feats in the history of Israelite warfare...” (Stephen J. Andrews & Robert D. Bergen, *I & II Samuel*, p. 226).

According to **verse 8**, David said whoever would get into the city and subdue it would become commander in his army. There was an entrance through a tunnel or water shaft and Joab was the first to go through it and strike down the Jebusites (I Chron. 11:4-8).

It is still considered a major accomplishment that someone could scale this. It is a 49 foot long vertical shaft that is dug through rock. It gave residents in the city access to a water spring.

Excavations have revealed that there was a water shaft that would have been very difficult to climb and that is the shaft Joab used.

So according to **verse 9**, David lived in the city and built all around it from the Millo and inward. The word “millo” means a full stone citadel or embankment. David renamed the city and called it the city of David.

Verse 10 says that David became greater and greater because “the LORD God of hosts was with him.” The covenant God of Israel and the Sovereign God over everything in heaven and on earth was with David.

Everything David did turned to gold because God’s hand was on him.

Blessing Reality #2 - God blessed David with political alliances. **5:11-12**

Hiram, the king of Tyre, sent some ambassador messenger delegation to David along with cedar trees. He also sent skilled carpenters and stonemasons to build a house for David. He wanted to build a new house for David and just did it. Hiram made alliances with both David and Solomon (I Kings 5).

According to **verse 12**, when this happened, David knew that God was doing all of this. This was not the normal thing that typically happened to David. Someone shows up with materials and wants to build you a house.

God had done this. God was exalting David and causing good things to happen for him.

Blessing Reality #3 - God blessed David with many children. **5:13-16**

David had many concubines and wives and God gave him the blessings of having sons and daughters.

In Jerusalem, David's children included Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon. These four were sons of Bathsheba (I Chron. 3:5). We are not sure who the mothers were of some of the other children but what we do learn in **verses 15-16** is that Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada and Eliphelet were also born in Jerusalem.

The family of David was expanding as David is living in Jerusalem.

There are different lists of David's children in the Bible:

- 1) Children born when in Hebron - II Sam. 3:2-5.
- 2) Children born when he moved to Jerusalem - II Sam. 5:13-16; I Chron. 3:1-9; 14:4-7.

Children are clearly a blessing of God and those who kill or abort a baby need to come to terms with what they have done or else they will face the severe judgment of God.

Blessing Reality #4 - God blessed David with victory over the Philistines. **5:17-25**

When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all of the Philistines decided to go confront David in the valley of Rephaim (**5:17-18**). This valley is a steep canyon located about a mile SW of David's new home.

According to **verse 19**, David asked God what he should do and the Lord told him go fight them because I will give them into your hands and you will win. **This is important. Before David moves forward, he asks God what God wants him to do. He does not attempt to go to war trusting in himself or his military for victory. His trust is in God.** This was something King Saul did not do. He would just make decisions based on how he felt. David based decisions on the word of God.

According to **verse 20**, David went and defeated the Philistines and David gave all the glory to God. He renamed the place "Baal-perazim" which means the Lord breaks out. God had broken David's enemies and David is giving God the credit for it.

According to **verse 21**, many of the Philistines fled and abandoned their idols so David got rid of them. The Philistines were so overwhelmed that they fled without their idols.

Well apparently the Philistines decided to fight David a second time at the same place (**v. 22**). Perhaps they were angry that David destroyed their idols.

According to **verse 23**, David went to God and asked Him what to do and God told him circle around them and attack them from the "balsam trees." This would cut off their escape route. God is actually giving David direct locations and angles from which to fight.

David has come to realize you cannot just use one strategy and win. God did want him to use another strategy here. God would use the tree tops to cause a noise that would cause the Philistines to think there were a great number of heavenly troops marching against them.

God said when you hear the sound of something marching in the top of the balsam trees, then attack them (v. 24). David said the LORD will go in front of us.

David is showing Israel that a new direction is being taken in that we depend on God to help us win battles.

We don't know what the sound was. It could have been angels or it could have been wind that gave the sound.

Whatever it was, when they heard it they attacked and they defeated the Philistines (v. 25).

In fact, they struck down the Philistines all the way from Geba (Gibeon) to Gezer, which is a distance of over 20 miles.

When God gives promotions and victories, how sweet it is.